

[0034] If the MMS user agent of the receiver wants to trigger the new link 2 in the multimedia message MM, it finds at the referenced memory location a file converted in accordance with the requirements from the MMS user agent profile, see reference point 5 in the diagram in FIG. 4.

[0035] Link LK 1—before conversion:

[0036] http://www.external_server.de/public/pictures/holiday.gif Link LK 2—after conversion:

[0037] http://www.MMS_service_provider/pics/holiday.jpg In an alternative embodiment, a method is executed in which each external link within a multimedia message MM is automatically replaced on arrival in the MMSE of a MMS service provider SPro by a new link LK which links to a placeholder for a possible storage space in the MMSE of the MMS service provider SPro. Converted files can be saved to these memory locations in the MMSE at a later stage; i.e., on request. The conversion itself in this embodiment optionally may be first carried out when file download is executed with the help of the link LK from the terminal or the MMS user application MMS-UA.

[0038] To summarize, a method is proposed in which every MM that arrives at the MMS relay/server of the receiver is verified to see whether it contains a link to another file. As such, where appropriate, all header fields in the header of the MM and in the headers of the individual MM elements must be verified. Furthermore, the method described usually requires that MM element MM-E that may contain a link, for example SMIL, html or txt, to be opened. Other MM elements MM-E that cannot contain references do not need to be opened. This affects audio files or static images, for example. Since the MM elements MM-E that have to be opened are, as a rule, much smaller than MM elements MM-E that do not have to be opened, the additional processing load in the MMS relay/server MMS-RS of the MMS service provider SPro is very low. With the described method, the MMS service provider SPro can guarantee to his/her customers that all links, both internal links and external links, contained in a multimedia message MM can be triggered in accordance with the information from the MMS user agent profile of the receiver B.

[0039] There are many benefits of a method in accordance with the present invention:

[0040] Firstly, references within an MM and between different MM elements remain valid after any data type and/or data format conversion in accordance with the MMS user agent profile of the receiver in the MMS relay/server of the receiver.

[0041] Secondly, it is proposed, for references from an MM to externally stored files, to check whether the data type and/or data format has to be converted in accordance with the information of the MMS user agent profile of a receiver by the MMS relay/server of the receiver and whether this link has to be adapted accordingly after successful conversion.

[0042] With a method of the type described above, it is therefore guaranteed that, in a multimedia message MM with internal links LK, even after conversion of the data type and/or data format, this link LK remains valid. Furthermore,

it is guaranteed that an MMS user agent receives files available for download with data types or data formats that he/she is in a position to process as a receiver application even for an MM with external references to files that are stored on an external server EXT and are not part of the MM. This is the only way to ensure that the MM can always be completely presented in a terminal and in the way in which the sender intended.

[0043] The Multimedia Messaging Service MMS specifies mechanisms for transporting any content from a subscriber of the service via a network to another subscriber, with the information elements of the message that can be used for the message transport, the header fields, being able to be employed very flexibly. In summary, several options are proposed for supporting attractive applications for diverse known message types, including those in MMS, whereby the efficiency of the message flow is beneficially improved in that according to the present invention any multimedia message MM can be adapted to the facilities of the receiver and/or set up and displayed as per the provisions of the sender. Transmitting short text messages such as messages from the Short Message Service SMS with a link to other sources, such as references to external internet sites that can be called up with an external application such as an internet browser, poses no problem. The present invention also enables structure-conformant integration of known message flows for all known and future data formats in adapted form together with the appropriate benefits.

[0044] Although the present invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments, those of skill in the art will recognize that changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as set forth in the hereafter appended claims.

[0045] Background details on WAP, MMS and cited new code languages are summarized in the following documents:

[0046] [1] 3GPP TS 23.040 version 5.3.0, Release 5; Third Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Terminals; Technical realization of the Short Message Service (SMS).

[0047] [2] 3GPP TS 22.140 version 5.1.0, Release 5; Third Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects; Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS); Service Aspects; Stage 1.

[0048] [3] 3GPP TS 23.140 version 5.2.0, Release 5; Third Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Terminals; Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS); Functional Description; Stage 2.

[0049] [4] Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language, SMIL version 2.0; World Wide Web Consortium; W3C Recommendation; 7 Aug. 2001.

1-11. (canceled)

12. A method for transmitting data in a communication system, wherein the data is at least one of text data and image data with or without sound and includes individual data elements that are coded to standards which may be different, the method comprising:

performing at least one of a data type and a data format conversion in accordance with a profile of a receiver of the data; and